

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated May 5, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objects to the drawings. Applicant notes that the inconsistencies in the drawings are clarified and corrected in the substitute specification filed by Applicant with the Amendment of January 25, 2005; thus, Applicant believes no corrections to the drawings are necessary at this time. For example, reference 'S' in the Figures is discussed in the substitute specification at paragraph [0025]. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the substitute specification and withdraw the objections to the drawings.

Applicant amends claims 4, 5, and 6 to correct minor typographical errors. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the §112 rejections.

In the Office Action, claims 4-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the related art in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,108,226 to Johnson.

The rejection of claims 4-12 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 4-12 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "A laminated material comprising cellulose sheets impregnated with a resin...wherein the perimeter area is relieved such that a portion of the edge contour is below the interior region, wherein the surface is mechanically formed with a surface texture that varies in accordance with a visual pattern". None of the cited references including the related art and Johnson, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. The structure of claim 4 of the present invention is different from the Johnson structure in that Johnson does not disclose or suggest, for example, "a laminated material comprising cellulose sheets" as recited in claim 4. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 4 and claims 5-12, which depend from claim 4, are allowable over the cited references.

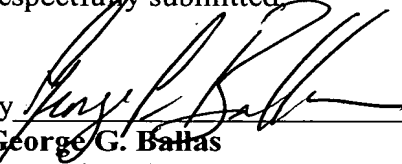
Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: November 7, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
George G. Ballas

Registration No. 52,587
McKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP
1900 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 496-7500
Attorneys for Applicant